

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Species A, Figures 1-4 are directed to a link plate with no communication groove; and

Species B, Figures 13A and 13B are directed to a link plate with a communication groove.

The Examiner has also required election in the present application between:

Sub-Species I: Figures 8 and 9 are directed to a chain assembly with coated links; and

Sub-Species II: Figures 5-7 are directed to a chain assembly with a resin spacing member.

**For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Species A, Figures 1-4 and Sub-Species I, Figures 8 and 9. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 are readable on the elected species and claims 1 and 8 are generic (as recognized by the Examiner). Therefore, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10 and 11 should be examined on the merits at this time.**

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10 and 11 are readable on the elected species. With regard to claims 2, 5 and 9, Applicants request that the Examiner consider the species once a generic claim is found to be allowable, and rejoin these species, if appropriate, at that time.

In the Examiner's Office Action, the Examiner indicates that no claims are directed to Species A, and that all of the claims are directed to Species B. However, Applicants do not agree

with the Examiner's position. Applicants respectfully submit that the elected claims are directed to the embodiment of Figures 1-4 (Species A).


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
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